

2001 PALS: AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORTATION TO DO ACTIVITIES OF CHOICE

Access to transportation to enable an individual to move about in his/her community — be it to go to work or school, to go shopping, to go to the movies or the library — is the norm for Ontarians. The access may be a personally owned vehicle, the vehicle of a friend or family member, public transportation, or some combination. But is this the norm for Ontarians with disabilities? And does lack of access to transportation result in a barrier that prevents or impede participation in activities that one chooses to do?

Is Lack of Transportation to Attend School a Barrier to Full Participation?

No. There were 58,220 Ontarians with disabilities aged 15 to 64 years who were attending school at the time of the survey. The majority (86.9%) did not require any modifications to buildings or access to services in order to attend classes. Of the 7,625 who required access to services, 40.4% required accessible transportation, and for most, this accessible transportation was available.

Is Lack of Transportation to Go to Work a Barrier to Full Participation?

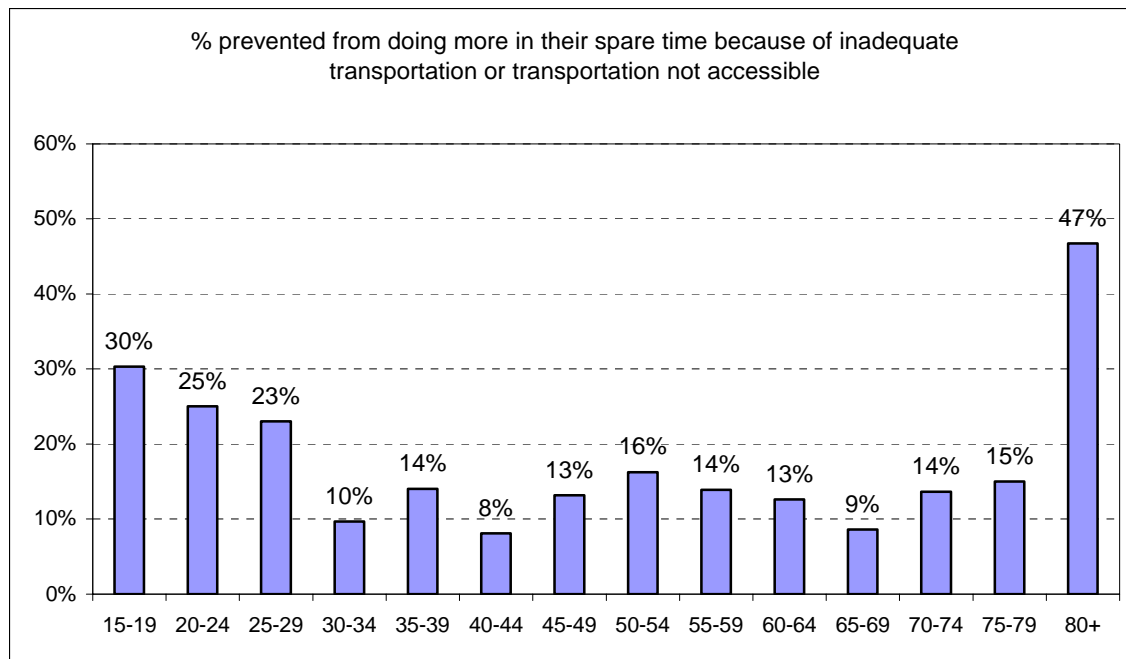
Yes, for some. There were 7,800 Ontarians who were employed at the time of the survey who indicated that they required accessible transportation to be able to work. Among those, 58% reported that this was available to them.

Is Lack of Transportation to Do Leisure Activities a Barrier to Full Participation?

Yes, for some. There were 593,115 Ontario adults with disabilities aged 15 and older who indicated that they would like to do more activities during their spare time. Of those 95,200 or 16% indicated that they were prevented from doing more because transportation services were inadequate or not accessible.

Among young adults aged 15 to 29, just over one in four (26%) indicated that inadequate transportation or transportation that was not accessible prevented them from participating in more activities during their spare time.

Almost half of Ontarians with disabilities aged 80 years and older (47%) cited inadequate or inaccessible transportation as one of the reasons for being prevented from participating in more activities in their spare time.



Do Ontarians with Disabilities Experience any Problems or Difficulties Using Specialized Bus Services or Local Transportation Services?

Yes, some do. There were 503,000 Ontarians with disabilities aged 15 and older that reported that they had travelled locally by specialized bus services or local transportation services during the 12 months prior to the survey. Of those, 18% or 90,000 reported having some difficulty using these modes of transportation. Among the 90,000 who reported some difficulty,

- 10% indicated difficulty getting in and out of vehicles;
- 4% indicated difficulty getting to or locating bus stops;
- 2% indicated that the service was not available on a 24-hour/7-days a week basis; and
- 1% indicated that booking rules did not allow for last minute arrangements or seeing signs and notices.

Among the remaining Ontarians who indicated that they had not used specialized services, 63,500 reported that they were prevented from accessing these services. Among these individuals,

- 25% indicated that the service was not available on a 24-hour/7-days a week basis;
- 28% indicated that the problem was getting to or locating bus stops;
- 37% indicated that the problem was getting in and out of vehicles; and
- 15% reported that the problem was seeing signs or notices.